

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:

Michael D. LAUFER

Serial No.: to be assigned

Filing Date: Herewith

For: SURGICAL FASTENING SYSTEM

Examiner: to be assigned

Group Art Unit: to be assigned

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 & 1.98**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97 and § 1.98, Applicants submit for consideration in the above-identified application the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. Pursuant to the USPTO notice dated July 11, 2003, waiving the requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98 (a)(2)(i) to provide copies of U.S. Patents and U.S. Published Applications, copies of those references are not submitted. The Examiner is requested to make these documents of record.

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

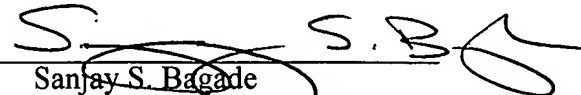
- ☒ With the application; accordingly, no fee or separate requirements are required.
- ☐ Before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination under § 1.114. However, if applicable, a certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (e)(1) has been provided.
- ☐ Within three months of the application filing date or before mailing of a first Office Action on the merits; accordingly, no fee or separate requirements are required. However, if applicable, a certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (e)(1) has been provided.
- ☐ After receipt of a first Office Action on the merits but before mailing of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance.
 - ☐ A fee is required. A check in the amount of __ is enclosed.
 - ☐ A fee is required. Accordingly, a Fee Transmittal form (PTO/SB/17) is attached to this submission in duplicate.
 - ☐ A Certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) is provided above; accordingly; no fee is believed to be due.
- ☐ After mailing of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the issue fee.
 - ☐ A Certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) is provided above and a check in the amount of __ is enclosed.
 - ☐ A Certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) is provided above and a Fee Transmittal form (PTO/SB/17 is attached to this submission in duplicate.)

Applicants would appreciate the Examiner initialing and returning the Form PTO-1449, indicating that the information has been considered and made of record herein.

The information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 and § 1.98 is not to be construed as a representation that: (i) a complete search has been made; (ii) additional information material to the examination of this application does not exist; (iii) the information, protocols, results and the like reported by third parties are accurate or enabling; or (iv) the above information constitutes prior art to the subject invention.

Dated: March 10, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
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Substitute for form 1449/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1

of 1

Complete if Known

Application Number	to be assigned
Filing Date	March 11, 2004
First Named Inventor	Michael D. LAUFER
Art Unit	to be assigned
Examiner Name	to be assigned
Attorney Docket Number	FST001

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US- 4,006,747	02-08-1977	Kronenthal et al.	
		US- 4,669,473	06-02-1987	Richards et al.	
		US- 4,705,040	11-10-1987	Meuller et al.	
		US- 5,203,864	04-20-1993	Phillips	
		US- 5,320,633	06-14-1994	Allen et al.	
		US- 5,376,097	12-27-1994	Phillips	
		US- 5,680,981	10-28-1997	Mililli et al.	
		US- 5,941,439	08-24-1999	Kammerer et al.	
		US- 6,022,373	02-08-2000	Lehmann	
		US- 6,039,753	03-21-2000	Meislin	
		US- 6,113,611	09-05-2000	Allen et al.	
		US- 2003/0097148A1	05-22-2003	Valimaa et al.	
		US- 2003/0187465A1	10-02-2003	Bailly et al.	
		US-			
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
		WO09851179A1	11-19-1998	Kammerer et al.		

Examiner
SignatureDate
Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For these patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language version is attached.

Information of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND COMPLETED FORMS TO: U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2